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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **Hidehiko OOTA**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**  
(§371 of International Application PCT/JP04/17326)

Filed: **September 5, 2006**

For: **CHUCKING APPARATUS**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: September 5, 2006

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows: